

heavier pieces of ordnance over the most appalling difficult country with such remarkable rapidity, and how they are able to bring them into action so readily at different points. Only a professional military man can appreciate the task involved in the rapid conveyance of forty-pounder guns over a country where roads are the exception, and boulder covered plains and hills the rule.

The fact that all these questions should be asked to-day by the English commanders in the field and by the War Department at home demonstrates better than anything else the gross incompetence of the Intelligence Department in London, which is unable to furnish any satisfactory answer to them, or to afford the slightest information on the subject. It is hardly necessary to point out that General Sir Redvers Buller and not merely his divisional, but likewise his brigade-commanders, should have been thoroughly posted on all these points before being called upon to encounter the foe, and that they were seriously handicapped by the absence of any information about the matter.

LACK OF MILITARY MAPS.

But not only has the Intelligence Department displayed the most inconceivable ignorance in everything connected with the military resources of the South African republics, but it actually neglected to chart the country which is now the scene of hostilities, and a portion of which, at any rate, is British territory. For if General Gatacre was defeated ten days ago, it was largely due to the fact that he had no knowledge of the topography of the country through which he was marching, that he had no maps, and that he was entirely dependent upon the directions of black guides, who proved themselves altogether incompetent, or else treacherous, and led his expeditionary force into an ambush. It is only necessary to recall the fact that during the war of 1870 the Prussian officers, thanks to the precautions of the Intelligence Bureau of the War Department at Berlin, were provided with the most elaborate and perfect maps of the enemy's country, showing every road and even bypath and lane, whereas the French commanders were repeatedly getting lost, even in their own country, owing to the lack of proper maps.

The British embarked upon this war with the Transvaal in the belief that at the very most the Boers would not be able to put into the field more than twenty-five thousand men, whereas it is shown to-day that they have under arms at least sixty thousand men. This body of armed opponents England apparently expects to defeat with a force all told of eighty thousand men, in which are comprised the Cape and Natal volunteers. From these eighty thousand troops have to be deducted those required for keeping open the requisite base lines, as well as the forces necessary for checking risings in the Cape Colony and in Natal, and those needed for garrison duty in the chief centres. Not less than forty thousand are necessary for this purpose, and the number of those left over is further diminished by the fact that the majority of the men are unused to the climate, and that the percentage of sickness is therefore large. To the majority of the English soldiers and officers the local topography is a sealed book, whereas the Boers know every yard of the country and all its capacities for traps. Finally, Pretoria has been fortified in such an able manner that it will require a very large

force and a number of heavy siege guns to capture the place.

If the English have until now underestimated the enemy, they have no one to blame but their appallingly inefficient Intelligence Department, which was subject to the direction of Sir Henry Brackenbury, one of the most self-sufficient and conceited generals of the English army, before being transferred a short time ago to the control of General Sir John Ardagh, who is less responsible for the conditions

foot Guards; the various Highland regiments, in particular the Gordons and the Black Watch, the 9th Lancers, the 1st Dragoon Guards, the Scots Greys and the 60th Rifles. If a force composed of such picked regiments as these has failed to subdue the Boers and encountered such serious defeats, what is to be expected from the less carefully recruited and officered regiments of the line? There seems to be a disposition to argue that English troops and English commanders who had seen much

The long and short of the matter is that it is not so much the men, nor yet the general who are at fault, but the system. The entire military organization in England requires to be radically reformed and placed on a basis which will enable it to make some pretence of competing with foreign nations. The whole of the War Department will have to be reconstructed, and the heads of the various divisions, notably the Intelligence Bureau, kept under strict supervision. Officers of every grade will be forced to make a practical as well as theoretical study of military science, and made to understand that their promotion depends upon their keeping abreast with its very latest developments; while last, but not least, something in the shape of compulsory military service will be introduced. There is a law in existence which compels every Englishman between eighteen and thirty, excepting peers, parsons and other sons of widow, to submit to ballot for service in the militia, and the operation of the law is merely arrested by virtue of a so-called Suspension act which is kept in force by another annual act called the Expiring Laws Continuance act, the passing of which takes place in the last hours of every session of Parliament. By simply dropping the title of the Suspension act out of the annual Continuance bill the militia ballot would be revived, and the lieutenants of each county would be obliged by law to resort to the ballot in order to furnish the quotas of soldiers which their counties were directed to provide by order in council. Something of the kind is certain to ensue at the close of the present war. For the British army as now constituted is altogether inadequate for the protection of the overgrown British Empire, on which the sun never sets, though it is sometimes subjected to a temporary and passing eclipse, as the one now darkening British South Africa.

EX-ATTACHE.

GLIMPSES OF EGYPTIAN LIFE.

SOME INTERESTING DETAILS FROM THE OXYRYNCHUS PAPYRUS.

From The Pall Mall Gazette.

The second part of Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt's "Oxyrhynchus Papyri" (Egypt Exploration Fund) gives us a further glimpse into the life led by colonists in Egypt during the early Christian centuries. Although it does not contain so many amusing private letters as its predecessor, some of the legal documents it reproduces are interesting. Witness what would nowadays be called a bail bond given by one Theon to "the Governor of the prison of Zenz." "I swear, Tiberius Cesar Novus Augustus Imperator that I have thirty days in which to restore to you the man whom I bailed out of the public prison in June of the present year, Sarapion, son of Sarapion, arrested through Billus, assistant to the decenes (magistrate for Crown lands), on account of a note of hand for a gold bracelet weighing two minae to Magianus on behalf of Aline, citizen, daughter of Dionysius. If I do not produce him within the said number of days, I will pay the said two minae of gold without delay, and I have no power to obtain a further period of time, nor to transfer myself to another prison." One would like to know more of the bachelor, the extravagant young Sarapion, who bought on credit a gold bracelet worth £40 of our money for a "lady of the city," and what induced Theon to go bail for him. Was it merely good nature, or was he like one of the professional bailiffs whose readiness to "perjure themselves before the judges of the land for half a crown a crime" so shocked Mr. Pickwick? The class were certainly not unknown in Egypt at the time.

Another papyrus in the same volume, however, leads one to think that Theon's interest was of the would-be paternal kind. "Syra, daughter of Theon, complains to the Chief Justice: I married Sarapion, bringing him by reason a dowry amounting to two hundred drachmae of silver. As he was destitute of means, I received him into my parent's house, and I for my part conducted myself blamelessly in all respects. But Sarapion, having squandered my dowry as he pleased, continually ill-treated and insulted me, using violence toward me, and depriving me of the necessities of life; finally he deserted me, leaving me in a state of destitution. I therefore beg you to order him to be brought before you, in order that he may be compelled to perform to pay back my dowry, increased by half its amount." Evidently Syra discovered too late that if the proverb about a reformed rake making the best husband be true it is as well to see that the rake is reformed before you commit your fortune to him.

The marriage yoke, however, sat very lightly upon these gay colonists. The marriage contract between one Dionysius and Sarapis, a lady of wealth who brings to her husband (besides expectations in the shape of house property, furniture and slaves) upon her mother's death four minae of gold, three dresses and some twenty acres of land, expressly provides that if the young couple disagree and Sarapis shall "wish to leave" Dionysius she shall receive back her dowry less a provision for any child of the marriage who shall prefer to remain with the father. Another papyrus shows such an arrangement at work, the lady in this case receiving back her dowry after she had been married a year, and each partner agreeing that no claim should be made upon the other. A still more informal arrangement is shadowed in the deed between Tryphon and Saraeus, which was expressly stated not to be a "regular" marriage contract. In this case the lady contributes forty silver drachmae, a pair of gold earrings and a milk white robe to the common fund under the form of a loan to her quasi-husband, who undertakes to repay the dowry or its equivalent in five months, and to provide on separation for what Mr. Kipling would call "the almost inevitable consequences." We know from another document that the alliance worked well, and that although Tryphon took seven years to repay the dowry the two were living together twenty-three years after, a son and daughter having been born to them. Tryphon, though only twenty-eight years old, had been married before to a lady named Demetra, from whom he was divorced. The separation does not seem to have prevented Demetra from visiting his new establishment and thumping her successor, of which there is a formal complaint to the magistrate. She must have been a lady of violent temper, and it was most likely by avoiding her methods that Saraeus succeeded in retaining the somewhat fugitive affection of Tryphon. A prescription for earache, containing poppy juice, shows the medical use of opium to be older than has been thought.



ADELE RITCHIE.

"Three Little Lambs," Fifth Avenue Theatre.

that prevail in the bureau than his predecessor in office.

In order to appreciate the moral effect of the reverses which the British have until now sustained, it must be borne in mind that the regiments defeated constitute the very pick and flower of the English army, regiments that are looked upon as crack corps in every sense of the word and which are officered by men of the very best families. These crack regiments comprise the mounted and

service out in India would have done better than General Sir Redvers Buller and his men. But one has only to recall the inability displayed by the forces in India to suppress the frontier insurrection of two years ago by force of arms, and to remember the incapacity displayed by several of the general officers, in order to convince one's self that the officers with Indian training would have done no better than their unfortunate comrades in South Africa.



WILLIAM FAVERSHAM.

"MY LADY'S LORD," Empire Theatre.

SARA PERLEY.